

Application No.: 10/625,768
Amendment dated: January 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: July 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed. Applicant respectfully notes that the word "Figure" in Figure 1 was correctly spelled in the original drawing as filed. There is no typographical error in any of the drawings. Therefore, applicant requests that the object to the drawings be withdrawn.

Field et al. (US Patent No. 6,382,678) discloses a coupling assembly for use with refrigerant lines. The coupling assembly comprises of a female coupling and a male coupling. The female coupling and the male coupling are secured together with a bracket. A fastening device, such as a threaded bolt, extends through the bracket, the male coupling portion, and the female coupling portion. Each of the coupling portions has at least two passage ways. Each passage way in each coupling has an annular sealing surface. The female coupling further comprises a cutting device positioned adjacent to the sealing surface. When the fastening device is tightened, the two couplings will move towards each other and the cutting device will cut through the sealing surface.

Shurtleff (US Patent No. 3,201,148) discloses a coupling means for connecting conduits. The coupling means comprises of two fittings that are threaded together. A thin metal disc is secured at the end of each of the two fittings. When the two fittings are threaded closer together, the thin metal discs will be pierced by one of the fittings.

Abbey et al. (US Patent No. 3,202,442) discloses a coupling comprising a male coupling half and a female coupling half, each of which has an open end sealed by a rupturable diaphragm. Within male coupling half is a tubular sleeve member with a tapered end with a

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relatively narrow width rib. When the two halves are threaded closer together the rib would pierce the diaphragm.

The prior arts all have two separate couplings threaded together. Each of the separate couplings has its own separate seal. Furthermore, the prior arts require a piercing device in one of the coupling to be able to pierce the two separate seals.

Applicant's invention is a connector with frangible seal comprising a single unitary tubular cylinder separated into a first section and a second section by a single frangible seal. There is no piercing device in the connector. Applicant's invention has a unitary structure much simpler than the prior arts and is unique in that it only has a single integrated frangible seal in the connector.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

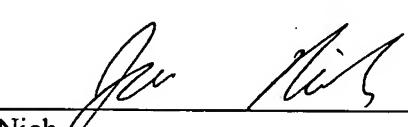


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